# URBANN®RTH

A LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

Vol. 2 Issue 6 | Nov/Dec 2019

3 HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
To Engage With Loved Ones

**MEMORABLE** Family Moments

6 WAYS TO CREATE COMMUNITY In Your Neighborhood

ESCAPE WINTER in Myrtle Beach

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### URBAN**N©RTH**

All Communities BARRIE NORTH to the shores of GEORGIAN BAY

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#### PRINTED BY RENAISSANCE PRINTING INC

URBAN NORTH, A Lifestyle Magazine publishes six issues per year and is distributed through controlled circulation by Canada Post to many of the homes and businesses in the selected communities, stretching from Barrie North to the shores of Georgian Bay. Included in our circulation are those communities in Midhurst, Minesing, North Barrie, Snow Valley, and Springwater Township; Shanty Bay, Horseshoe Valley, Sugar Bush, Braestone, and Oro-Medonte Township; Elmvale, Wasaga Beach, Tiny Township, Midland, Penetanguishene, and Tay Township.

The views, opinions and statements supplied by contributing writers or advertisers are done so at the discretion of the before mentioned parties and do not necessarily reflect those of the Publisher,
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(a division of Cranston's Ontario Inc.).

Editor's Note

Welcome to the Holiday edition of Urban North! We've come full circle, and we're excited to see what 2020 is going to bring! However, there are still lots of activities, celebrations and festive preparations to go before we bid farewell to 2019.

A brand new year is on the horizon and lots of snowy weather is predicted for this upcoming winter season. It's important that we begin to plan well in advance for whatever weather conditions we may be challenged with. Are you ready? Be sure to read up on the articles selected by Urban North this issue to help you be ready and prepared.

The article "Winter is Coming – Be Prepared for Costly, Damaging Storms" gives a few helpful hints on home maintenance that will ensure your winter is spent relaxed in the warm comforts of your house, rather than worrying about the next snow storm that comes roaring through.

Of course winter driving is an activity which causes more stress than most other times of the year. The article "6 Steps to Safer Winter Driving" and "Savvy Car Owners Do This Before Winter" can help to alleviate some of that stress.

If you're new to the electric car scene, check out the article "What Canadians Need to Know About Driving Electric Vehicles in Winter" for some tips about driving an electric car in the Canadian winter.

Of course each year we like to bring you some new ideas for hosting that holiday feast. Be sure to check out the recipe section for ideas on how to impress family and friends this year. You'll love it, and so will they!

For those of you who didn't get a chance to getaway this summer, or who save those vacation days until the snow begins to fall, check out the article "Take a Micro Trip with Those Last Vacation Days" and for a destination closer to home "Escape Winter in Myrtle Beach". These articles offer lots of ideas and activities you can partake in as you plan your winter escape. Enjoy and Stay safe!

From all of us here at Urban North to each of you and your loved ones, have a safe and joyous Holiday Season, and a Happy New Year!



SAMSUNG

#### The answers can be found by matching the logos in the questions, to the ads. NO PHONES ALLOWED and good luck! (Choose One answer for each question)

- 1) Which famous Canadian Duo made The Twelve Days of Christmas truly Canadian?
- ☐ Miranda Chartrand & Adam Nichol
- ☐ Jared Keeso & Nathan Dales
- Red Green & Harold Green
- ☐ Bob Mackenzie & Doug Mackenzie
- ☐ Don Cherry & Ron MacLean

YOUR LOGO

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- 2) The Elf that accompanied Rudolph on his journey in the 1964 Christmas classic was named:
- □ Buddy
- ☐ Hermey
- ☐ Snap
- ☐ Legolas ☐ Dobby

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- 3) In 1965, which Christmas carol became the first to be broadcast from space?
- Rupdolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
- White Christmas
- ☐ Silent Night
- ☐ Frosty the Snowman
- ☐ Jingle Bells



- 5) A Charlie Brown Christmas ended with which Christmas Carol?
- ☐ Santa Claus is coming to town
- ☐ It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas
- ☐ Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
- ☐ Baby It's Cold Outside
- Oh Christmas Tree



- 4) The Saint Nicholas incarnation of Santa was born in which modern day Country?
- □ Turkey
- ☐ Russia ☐ Switzerland
- ☐ Canada
- ☐ Greenland



- 6) Donald Trump made a cameo in which Christmas movie?
- ☐ It's a Wonderful Life
- □ Elf
- ☐ Miracle on 34th Street
- ☐ Scrooged
- ☐ Home Alone 2



- 7) Who was the author of "A Christmas Carol"?
- ☐ Ernest Hemingway
- ☐ F. Scott Fitzgerald
- ☐ Charles Dickens
- J.R.R. Tolkien ☐ Fyodor Dostoevsky
- 8) According to the most recent studies, how much does Canada spend approximately on Christmas?
- □ \$ 20 million
- □ \$ 400 Million
- ☐ \$ 1.5 Billion
- □ \$ 750 Million
- ☐ \$ 19 Billion



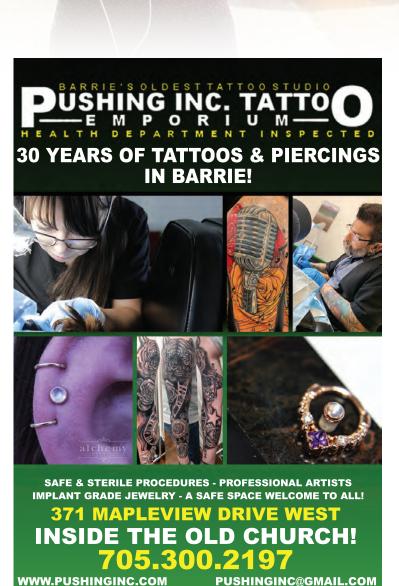
### QUICK BREAK IDEAS

for the battle-weary parent

(NC) BETWEEN MEAL-PREPPING SCHOOL LUNCHES. CHAUFFEURING KIDS TO EXTRA-**CURRICULARS AND MANAGING A FULL-TIME** JOB, LIFE CAN BE PRETTY STRESSFUL FOR PARENTS. PRACTICE SELF-CARE TO ELIMINATE STRESS AND FEEL BETTER WITH THESE QUICK AND EASY WAYS TO CARVE OUT SOME TIME FOR YOURSELF.

- 1. Join a class. If your plans for me-time always end up falling by the wayside to things on your to-do list, signing up for a scheduled activity is a good way to make sure you prioritize your break. Whether it's a yoga class or a book club with friends, having a designated time and place will help you follow through.
- 2. Engage your senses. A form of mindfulness meditation, being truly present in small ways for just a few moments can leave you feeling refreshed and rejuvenated. Try going for a guick walk around the block and focusing on nature sounds - like birds chirping or leaves rustling - or try making yourself a cup of coffee or tea and truly savouring the scents and flavours.
- **3. Listen to music.** Enjoying your favourite music can transform your headspace and has been shown to have positive impacts on mood, well-being and even memory. Perfect for on-the-go parents, SiriusXM is now a streaming option that makes it easy to tune into any style of music and carve out a break wherever you are. If music isn't your thing, you can unwind with a wide variety of talk, entertainment and comedy programming.
- 4. Schedule a date. Set up an appointment on your calendar to do something special that you enjoy. Whether it's a dinner date with your partner, a one-on-one fun activity with your child, a coffee with a friend or a movie by yourself, make sure it's something you wouldn't normally do that gets you out of the daily grind.

Find more information and sign up for a trial at player.siriusxm.ca.





- Consult a roofing professional to remove snow or standing water before an ice dam can form.
- Invest in a roof rake, a tool that allows you to stand on the ground and safely brush snow off the roof.
- Avoid trying to chip any ice dams off your roof, as you could damage the roof. Ask a roof specialist for help instead.
- Talk with your roof specialist about sealing the roof deck with a moisture barrier.

#### **Prevent water damage**

 Ventilate the attic and insulate the attic floor to stop warm air in the house from melting snow and ice on the roof.

- Wrap exposed pipes with insulation sleeves or 2 inches of Underwriters Laboratories (UL)-listed heat tape.
- Caulk cracks and holes in the home's outer walls and foundation. Holes left by cable installation can also leave pipes exposed.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to let warm air circulate around pipes.
- Trickle water from faucets connected to pipes that run through unheated or unprotected spaces.
- Locate the home's main water valve typically in the basement or outside near the curb so you can turn water off quickly if a pipe does burst.

 If you leave the house unoccupied for an extended period, shut off the water and have a professional drain the system. Turn the heat down, but don't turn it off.

## Clear surfaces where you walk or drive

- Keep walkways, steps and driveways clear of snow and ice.
- Treat these areas with rock salt or de-icing products.

For more information on ways to protect your home, visit USAA.com/HomeSafety.

Safety guidelines are not intended to be all inclusive, but are provided for your consideration. Please use your own judgment to determine what safety features/procedures should be used in each unique situation.

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates.

## WINTER IS COMING:

Be prepared for costly, damaging storms

(BPT) - WINTER WEATHER IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT. USE THESE TIPS TO HELP PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM THE COSTLY DAMAGE WINTER STORMS CAN BRING.

#### Take care of your roof

- Keep your gutters clear.
   This keeps ice from accumulating and backing up under the shingles.
- Trim trees year-round so branches don't fall on your house.
- Worn-out, missing or damaged siding and roof flashing can let water and ice into your home. Be vigilant and replace them.
- If your chimney is leaning or the mortar has seen better days, get it repaired.

#### **Prevent ice dams**

- Eliminate heat sources under the roof, such as lights and heaters in the attic, that can contribute to thawing.
- Keep the attic cool and ventilated to stop or slow the refreezing cycle.







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### The dangers of blue light sleep clean with these simple tips

(NC) In an increasingly digital world, we are exposed to artificial lighting more than ever before. Artificial lighting not only causes issues such as eye strain, headaches and blurred vision, but also impacts one of our most important internal biological processes: sleep.

circadian rhythm, which uses the light sensors in our eyes vision correction or if you routinely wear contact lenses. to track what our body perceives as daylight in order to match our schedule to our environment.

This process can be disrupted when exposed to artificial light, which contains blue light. Blue light is used by LED screens including televisions, computers and our phones, and can be problematic as it closely mimics natural sunlight. Because of this, our body interprets blue light as sunlight and sends signals to the brain that we should be awake. This can throw off our circadian rhythm and contribute to insomnia and other sleep-related issues.

Fortunately, there are steps you can take to help alleviate some of the issues caused by blue light to ensure a good night's sleep:

1. Invest in special blue-light-filtering glasses: These special-purpose glasses are available without an eyeglass pre-

Our sleep cycle is regulated by our internal body clock or scription, so you can use them even if you have no need for

- 2. Avoid the use of LED screens in the evening: Substitute phone time or watching television with bluelight-free activities, such as reading a printed book. Use specialized lighting such as the Dyson Lightcycle, a task light that continually adjusts its colour temperature and brightness in relation to your local daylight, providing the right light for the right time of day.
- 3. Use a blue light filter app: Available for smartphones, tablets, and computer screens, blue light filters tint your screen to neutralize the blue light emitted - a fast and effective way to instantly reduce exposure. Some phone companies, realizing the importance of blue light filtration, have even included built-in blue light filters within their operating systems. Search the features on your smartphone to see if a "night shift" setting is available.

## 5 WAYS to elevate your home decor through minimalism

(BPT) - The latest trends in home decor reveal a desire for a feeling of tranquility and calmness, perhaps as a response to today's overly busy and distracted lifestyles. From Marie Kondo's decluttering craze to a return to natural materials in home design, everyone is looking for a way to create a peaceful, less hectic inner space. When it comes to home decor, less is definitely more. How can you tap into this yen for a little more Zen?

#### 1. SIMPLIFY YOUR DESIGN STRATEGY

When revamping your room to create a more minimalist effect, choose a limited color palette, meaning one to three colors at most. Select mostly more muted or neutral colors, though you can use one vivid color in a piece of furniture or art to grab the spotlight.

Let the textures of the materials that you use for the floors, walls, ceilings and furnishings - whether they are natural wood, stone, ceramics, glass, tile, fabrics or canvas - create the room's visual interest instead of yesterday's too-busy colors and patterns. Choose a couple of contrasting textures, like glass and reclaimed lumber, or woven fabric and stone, to highlight in the room for the best effect.

#### 2. DECLUTTER YOUR SPACES

Decide what items you really want and need to be in each room and get rid of the rest - or find a way to store it neatly, preferably out of sight. One of the greatest visual clutter culprits today comes from technology. It's hard to know what to do with the mass and tangle of cords from all the latest gadgets, power strips and chargers everyone uses in their homes.

To streamline the technology you use for viewing TV, movies and more, a product from LG Electronics USA can solve your cord clutter problem and turn your living room into an amazing home viewing theater. The LG CineBeam Al ThinQ 4K Laser Projector (HU85LA) creates an impressive 90- to 120-inch cinematic screen by placing it just 2.2 to 7.2 inches away from the wall, needing no complicated installation. With its streamlined and compact design, the state-of-the-art projector incorporates LG's ThinQ Al and has the Google Assistant built-in so you can control your compatible smart home devices with just your voice.

#### 3. CHOOSE FURNISHINGS WITH CLEAN LINES

When you're selecting new furniture for your minimalist rooms, look for high-quality, standout pieces designed with clean lines, with no fussy design details or busy

patterns. Don't acquire more furniture than the room really needs. Chances are you can do without all those end tables and extra chairs.

Make one exceptional, stylish piece of furniture be the focal point for each room, and don't over-furnish or over-decorate the space around it. Then avoid the urge to smother the couch or sectional with tons of blankets and throw pillows. Let the furniture speak for itself.

#### 4. STREAMLINE ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

Instead of filling every wall with pictures, choose just one accent wall, eliminating excessive decor elements around it. Let one work of art dominate that space, reducing any competition for attention.

The LG CineBeam Laser Projector can display a chosen photograph or work of art on your accent wall. With 8.3 million pixels, it delivers impeccable precision and detail at four times the resolution of full HD, along with incredibly vibrant color reproduction. It works without the need to darken the room around it, using gentle light that produces clear images without any harsh brightness.

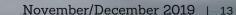
#### **5. LEAVE PLENTY OF OPEN SPACE**

Resist the urge to fill every corner and surface of the room with ornaments and knickknacks. It's the open space, unencumbered by any visual clutter, that creates the feeling of calm and tranquility you're craving.

And if you're lucky enough to have a great view out the window, install only simple, streamlined window treatments - or no window treatments at all - to highlight that view.

Minimalist decor is all about making careful choices and choosing the best quality furnishings and decor over quantity of items. You can turn any room into a beautiful showcase that you'd be happy to entertain and live in, with some thoughtful decision-making.

To learn more about improving your home technology, visit LG.com.



### 3 Holiday Activities to Engage with Loved Ones

(Family Features) Any time can be the right time to enjoy memorable moments with family members, but the holidays present a special opportunity to have meaningful conversations and interactions with loved ones.

One of the best ways to spark crethrough activities that get the conversation started, whether it's remembering favorite moments from appreciation. This holiday season, consider these activity ideas from the Funeral and Memorial Information Council, which created the "Have the Talk of a Lifetime" initiative to encourage families to facilitate conversations that become invaluable when the time comes to honor a loved one.

While these conversations can be difficult to engage in and even harder to begin, the natural bonding moments that stem from activities like these can help make the process easier.

#### **GRATITUDE TREE**

Start a new tradition by creating a gratitude tree, a simple decoration vou can look forward to using each year as a reminder of what you and your family are thankful for.

To make a gratitude tree, collect twigs or branches, dry them out and cut them to the desired lengths. Put meals, ask each family member to jot the branches in a vase or decorative container. Punch holes at the tops of fall-colored paper to be used as tags signature and date. then instruct guests to write what they're grateful for on each tag.

tie them to the branches then keep the handwritten tags in a safe place until they can be read again each holiday season. Over the years, as the tree fills up, you'll have a lifetime of memories to share.

#### **TIME CAPSULE**

Making a holiday-inspired time capsule can help strengthen family bonds while preserving treasured memories and creating opportunities for future holidays when it's time to reopen the contents.

and mold then place the container in a box that can be decorated and stored in a safe place with related the past or simply sharing notes of holiday decorations. Mark on the container the date it was created for future reference, and pack it with items like family-favorite recipes; notes about significant events from that year like births, weddings, graduations and more; copies of newspapers detailing high-profile happenings; and pictures, drawings and notes from the year.

> If you're patient enough to wait, try leaving the contents undisturbed at least five years to give the memories even more meaning when the time comes to relive those special moments.

#### **MEMORIES TABLECLOTH**

To help keep important family footnotes front and center during future celebrations, a memorial tablecloth provides each person an opportunity to personalize a piece of popular decor. As you gather around the table for holiday down a favorite memory or something he or she is thankful for along with a

You can make it an annual event by using the same tablecloth each Take turns reading the tags and year and, before long, it will be filled with personal memories as a way to cherish relationships as time goes on. Just use an appropriately sized, inexpensive white canvas drop cloth. Place fabric markers in the center of the table before inviting guests to participate, and to help distinguish each year, try using different colored markers.

Use a sealed container or plastic Find more ways to celebrate the ativity and generate memories is bag to protect items from moisture holidays with your loved ones at talkofalifetime.org.







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#### **STRETCH YOUR BODY**

water lagoons.

one of the area's spectacular courses art in a wide variety of media, from see a dolphin or two as you cruise designed by legends Arnold Palmer, renowned artists including Ansel the ocean or Intracoastal waterway! Jack Nicklaus and Greg Norman.

perfect time to escape winter in the Waccamaw Neck Bikeway, or fall's exhibit "A Visual Exploration Myrtle Beach. You could enjoy a short take a literal stretch at one of Myrtle of Southern Heritage" showcases stay. How about 60 hours to match Beach's many yoga centers like Yoga Southern-history themed works. the 60 miles of stunning beaches? in Common. You could follow your Or if you have time, plan a longer yoga with a beer at a Sunday session minds at WonderWorks, featuring

#### STRETCH YOUR MIND

Relax and stretch your legs along the horizons abound in Myrtle Beach, capsule. Everyone will enjoy this unique shore at Myrtle Beach, then take a from Brookgreen Gardens, consisthike at Huntington Beach State Park ing of over 9,000 acres of botanical to enjoy its numerous boardwalks gardens filled with stunning sculp- STRETCH YOUR LIMITS extending into salt marsh and fresh-tures and art, to the Franklin G. Or you can take in some golf at Museum, where you can view visual Beach Watersports. You may even

If biking is more your speed, tour Johns and Norman Rockwell. This

Traveling with kids? Expand their nearly 100 hands-on exhibits to explore science, weather and space. Step into the Hurricane Shack to feel storm-force Opportunities to expand your winds, or sit in a replica of the Mercury educational experience.

Catch a wave with Jack's Surf Burroughs Simeon B. Chapin Art Lessons, or rent a Jet Ski at Myrtle Adams, Frank Lloyd Wright, Jasper If you're really daring, consider

parasailing up to 500 feet above Haunted Adventure Laser Strike.

Reef exhibit at Ripley's Aquarium, commodations offer more value for where they can watch sharks, your money during fall, and there are stingrays and other sea creatures plenty of area attractions that are vacation do-over, share your stories swimming around them.

with Bartender's Choice at Strong are free to visit and enjoy. Wake up most compelling stories and photos Waters Craft Cocktails & Kitchen, early to watch a gorgeous sunrise, with a trip next fall. where you choose any two words spend the day surfing the waves, or such as fizzy, sweet or smoky, and bring along a beach chair to relax. To find ways to escape winter, the bartender will create a unique in the sun. Stroll along Murrells Inlet check out visitmyrtlebeach.com. specialty drink just for you.

free or low-cost to suit any budget.

MarshWalk to take in the stunning views of the marsh.

Join some fall festivals and events, such as Aynor Harvest

STRETCH YOUR DOLLAR NEXT FALL Hoe-Down in September or the the ocean with the help of Express Savvy travelers know they can get Little River ShrimpFest in October, Watersports, or you and the kids the best deals when the tourist offering live jazz and mouthwatering could join forces and fight your season is ending, so fall is a great shrimp. Don't miss the Loris Bog-Off way through monsters at Ripley's time to enjoy oceanfront resorts and in October, celebrating the Southern other amenities without the sum- specialty of rice, chicken, sausage Thrill the kids with the Dangerous mertime crowds. Myrtle Beach ac- and pepper. For more on festivals. visit GrandStrandEvents.com.

For families who truly need a at visitmyrtlebeach.com. Visit Myrtle Test your limits by taking a risk. The 60 miles of beautiful beaches. Beach will surprise those with the



One recent survey in the U.S. found 75 percent of Americans think it's important to welcome new neighbors, 58 percent say it's important for neighbors to socialize and 37 percent are more likely to seek help from a neighbor than a friend when it comes to small projects.

The chance to meet others is often cited as a primary reason millennials prefer living in urban neighborhoods. The survey found 58 percent of millennials have had face-to-face interactions with their neighbors, while 40 percent wish they were better connected than they already are.

Interested in becoming a better inhabitant of your own neighborhood? Consider these suggestions aimed at promoting a kinder, friendlier environment.

- 1. Introduce yourself. Take the first step. Instead of avoiding contact when in your yard or out for a walk, shake hands, say hi and make an effort to remember people's names. Even when in-person contact is brief, it can go a long way toward helping people feel connected and more like friends than strangers.
- 2. Take new neighbors housewarming gifts. Make newcomers feel wanted and welcome by acknowledging their arrival with a thoughtful gift. One meaningful and sure-to-be-welcome idea is a beautifully fragranced soy candle from Bright Endeavors, a Chicago-area nonprofit that employs young mothers. Every purchase helps empower young women by teaching them job training and giving them the skills needed to gain permanent employment and provide for their children.
- **3. Give new families contact info for neighbors and neighbor** *Find more information, visit BrightEndeavors.org.* hood amenities. Include phone numbers for emergency ser-

vices, doctors' offices, dentists, schools, babysitters, entertainment options, sources of great takeout food, dry cleaners and any other assets you think may be helpful. People will appreciate your insider view into local amenities, and they'll be more likely to communicate key information to others if their contact info is readily available.

- Organize a neighborhood event. It could be as simple as a front-porch open house or as strategically planned as a neighborhood cleanup, but any gathering that brings people together to socialize is bound to create goodwill and a friendlier neighborhood vibe.
- 5. Stay aware of who needs help. When possible, organize meal delivery, dog walking, transportation or other assistance for neighbors going through tough times. Teaming up to help others may make your neighbors feel more connected, and people on the receiving end of such kindness tend to pay it forward.
- **6.** Live by the golden rule. Treat your neighbors as you would like to be treated. Clean up after pets and kids, drive through at reasonable speeds, don't be overly loud, mow at reasonable hours, return anything you've borrowed and generally stay aware of how you're coming across to others.

It feels good to live in a neighborhood that feels more like a community than an anonymous collection of strangers. Consider how you can take the initiative to create warmth and peace within your own neighborhood.



# Local Magazine Advertising By Jenna Bruce

#### 1. Target A Dedicated Market

Enthusiasts are always the most dedicated consumers and the best to market to. Besides people who are passionate about certain hobbies, most people are incredibly proud and passionate about where they live. Since most humans have an incredible need to be part of a community, local magazines serve as an important hub where locals learn about their surroundings and events they might like to get involved in. In other words, as a local business, you will get your ad in front of a passionate crowd that is already interested in who you are and what you have to offer.

#### 2. Nothing Beats that Tactile Experience

Sure, many consumers spend a ton of time online chronicling the latest minutiae of their daily lives on their Twitter accounts or uploading their newest selfie onto their Instagram accounts, but when it comes to engaging with websites, most readers only scan a website for 15 seconds before moving on.

People interact much differently with printed magazines. There's just something about that tactile experience. Magazine readers really take their time and linger when reading print. They also tend to fully interact with the content, including the ads inside.

#### 3. Your Ad Will Stand Out

Who stands to sell more tacos and make more money: the taco truck parked downtown amidst a sea of food trucks, or the taco truck that is parked five miles outside of town on the side of the highway surrounded by nothing but hungry travelers? So many advertisers have fallen for the myth that print is dead. Many have migrated their marketing budgets online where they vie for consumer attention in a sea of other digital ads. This is great news because it means your local magazine ad has far less competition and will stand out from the crowd.

#### 4. People Don't Fear Print Ads

The Internet is full of cybercriminals who use viruses as an attempt to gain access to consumer's private information. Because of the proliferation of these malware viruses, web surfers have become very wary of clicking on banner ads, even if those ads are enticing. But consumers have nothing to fear by reading your print ad, and this makes them more open to receiving your message.

#### 5. A Longer Shelf Life

While digital ads come and go, print ads have staying power. A magazine left in a doctor's office will be read by countless patients for many months, and your ad can be seen by a majority of them.

#### 6. Brand Recognition

When you advertise in a reputable local magazine, people instantly become familiar with your company. This recognition is then reinforced when they meet you in person, either at your place of business or at a local trade show or charity event. This not only builds brand recognition but, in time, brand loyalty.

#### 7. Credibility

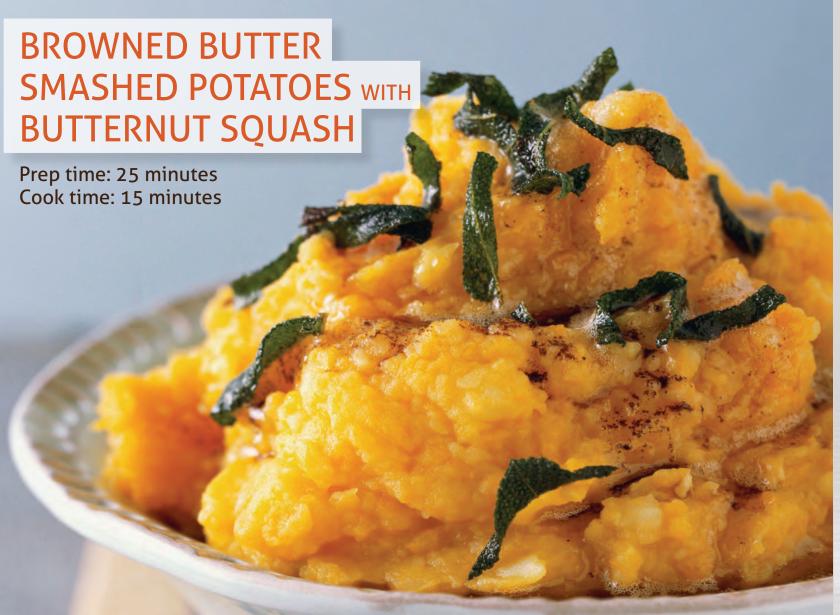
Local magazines are highly valued and respected publications that build a sense of community among local consumers. In fact, many people turn to local publications as a source of advice. Advertisers can greatly benefit from this credibility when their ads are viewed not as ads but as recommendations from a trusted source.

We recommend you take a cue from the new owners of Newsweek who realized print is not dead, but rather a channel that offers true engagement with a targeted audience, and invest some of your marketing dollars into local magazine advertising.

Kevin P. Banks Founder / Publisher

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705.791.6361 ryan@urbannorthmedia.ca



#### **INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 pound (3 medium) Wisconsin yellow-flesh potatoes, cut into 3/4-inch chunks
- 1 small butternut squash (about 1 pound), peeled, seeded and cut into 1-inch chunks
- water
- 1 teaspoon salt, plus additional, to taste, divided
- 3 tablespoons butter, divided
- 8-10 fresh (2-3-inch) sage leaves, stacked and cut into 1/4-inch strips
- 1/2 cup 1% milk
- freshly ground black pepper, to taste

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

- In 3-quart saucepan, cover potatoes and squash with water; add 1 teaspoon salt.
- Bring to boil over high heat; reduce heat, cover and cook until tender, 12-15 minutes.
- In small saucepan over medium heat, mix 2 tablespoons butter and sage. Tilting pan and watching closely, cook about 3 minutes, until butter foams and begins to brown; keep warm.
- Thoroughly drain potatoes and squash, return to pan and shake 1-2 minutes over low heat. Using hand masher, roughly mash to create chunky mixture.
- Over low heat, gently mix in remaining butter and milk.
- Season with salt and pepper, to taste.
- Spoon into serving bowl and drizzle with brown butter and sage.

# Hot Cocoa Pancakes

Prep time: 10 minutes | Cook time: 2 minutes per pancake | Yield: 12 pancakes (3 per serving)

#### **INGREDIENTS:**

- 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 1/2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 cup 2% or non-fat milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups Aunt Jemima Original Complete or Buttermilk Complete Pancake & Waffle Mix
- 1/4 cup water
- marshmallow spread (optional)
- chocolate syrup (optional)
- Aunt Jemima Syrup (optional)

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

- Heat skillet over medium-low heat or electric griddle to 375 F.
- In microwave-safe bowl, mix cocoa powder, sugar, milk and vanilla until well combined. Heat in microwave 30 seconds, or until warm. Stir again to ensure mixture is combined.
- Combine cocoa mixture, pancake mix and water. Stir until large lumps disappear (do not beat or overmix). If batter is too thick, add additional 1-2 tablespoons water.
- Pour slightly less than 1/4 cup batter onto lightly greased skillet or griddle. Cook 90 seconds, or until bubbles appear on surface. Turn and cook additional 30 seconds. Repeat with remaining batter.
- Top pancakes with marshmallow spread and drizzle chocolate syrup, or top with syrup.



## Memorable Family Moments

(Family Features) Educational activities and plans that allow kids to flex their brain muscles in fun and creative ways can be ideal ways to spend family time that makes lasting memories.

While children typically gain invaluable knowledge and experience in the classroom, purposeful activities done outside of that setting can help encourage kids to keep learning and make family moments more enjoyable for everyone involved.

From planning trips that celebrate animals and the great outdoors to rainy day activities at home that inspire creative expression, these ideas can produce some family moments worth remembering.

- Go on a scavenger hunt. From native species of plants, animals and insects to neighborhood landmarks, there are plenty of interesting things that can be found right in your own backyard. Organize a scavenger hunt and work together in teams of family members to search for each item on the list, then do more research on the things you found once you return home. For a real challenge, expand your hunt to the city limits of your hometown and make a day trip of the adventure.
- 2. Hang out with wildlife. Learn about different species of animals, how to help protect them and the importance of eco-friendly everyday practices by visiting a destination like an Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)-accredited zoo or aquarium. You can explore the challenges facing endangered species, discover how community programs are spurring positive change for conservation and learn more at aza.org. After learning about animals that need help.

you can visit zebrapen.com/aza for fun kids games. coloring pages and other activities that encourage creativity. Many animal sanctuaries and wildlife recovery centers also have endangered species and offer educational information about them.

- Visit a national park. Many park ranger programs provide opportunities to interact with the animals that live in the area, as well as information about any endangered animals and how you can help with conservation efforts. While in the park, you can also enjoy a nature hike, have a picnic lunch and view the different species of plants in the region.
- Enjoy an arts and crafts day. Spending time doing an art project is a hands-on way to help introduce kids to new ideas and ways of learning. Engage the entire family by creating crafts with different subjects of interest. This can help create conversations and opportunities to further explore what your children are interested in.
- Organize a game day. A play day can be just as fun as it is educational. Choose from a variety of games that can allow players to get extra creative. Options like Pictionary or charades tap into different types of creative skills, which can keep everyone engaged while they're learning to express themselves effectively in new ways.





## Capture Moments That Matter

Make your family's learning adventures more memorable by encouraging kids to capture their experiences on paper. The practice of communicating on paper can help lock in memories, plus it's a clever way for kids to practice practical skills in an engaging and productive way.

- 1. Write about experiences in a journal or diary. 4. Create a family calendar to plan your summer For older kids, encourage them to use words to describe their adventures. Ask younger kids to draw a scene or image that captured their attention or excited them the most.
- 2. Design a diorama about your family's adventures to display in your home to show extended family and friends. Make it a conversation piece by asking kids to think about an endangered species and depict its living environment. Available in standard, glitter, neon, metallic and pastel colors, tools like Zebra Doodler'z(r) allow little designers to explore the nearly endless possibilities for color coding, sketching, journaling and embellishing.
- 3. Take photos to share with friends and family both online and in-person. Get creative with your photo-taking by encouraging kids to think about the story they'll tell through the images. It might be a series of selfies tackling exciting new activities or documenting a sibling's first experience at the petting zoo. Another way to capture photographic memories is a photo treasure hunt, where kids have a list of items to search for and photograph during each outing.

- activities together. Anticipating upcoming adventures is part of the fun. Let kids help you keep track of what's coming up and build excitement with a personalized calendar. Make it a work of art by asking kids to draw icons or small images that depict upcoming activities with an option like Zebra's Sarasa(r) Fineliner Pens, which are available in 12 vibrant colors.
- 5. Share experiences on social media. Let friends and family in on the fun by sharing your photos, drawings, dioramas and other creations online. Seeing the positive interaction and praise-filled comments from loved ones can help reinforce the value of creative expression to impressionable young minds.
- Create scrapbooks to help remember family moments. Keep the pace of life from fading those precious memories by assembling scrapbooks to commemorate family adventures. Make the scrapbook a family affair with everyone contributing their own creations.

Find more ideas for capturing and sharing experiences at zebrapen.com.



# need to know about driving electric vehicles in winter

(NC) The popularity of electric vehicles continues to grow in Canada. But many still wonder if they have what it takes to tackle a Canadian winter.

"Electric vehicles actually make for great winter cars," says Michael Bettencourt, managing editor at Autotrad- you'll step into a nice, warm car when you're ready to er.ca. "With proper care taken to winterize and prep for drive off. harsher driving conditions, these cars can be used all year long."

Driving in snow? Relax: Just like gas vehicles, EVs can be fitted for the Canadian winter. It's still recommended that you use winter tires for maximum traction and follow typical winter-driving safety tips. Since there are fewer models available with four-wheel drive, be mindful of your car's capabilities before driving on unplowed roads.

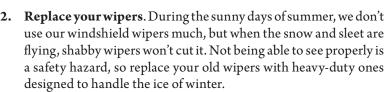
Precondition your car: Preconditioning is when you warm up your car battery while it's still plugged in. Doing this helps EVs perform efficiently, since you won't deplete

the battery reserve heating up the interior. Another perk:

Your range will decrease: Cold weather can affect the battery range of an electric vehicle, so it's especially important to ensure your vehicle is well charged to handle the length of your trip. Keep in mind that which model you have, how you drive it and how you heat it will all affect the range, so be prepared and avoid unwanted surprises.

Charge somewhere warm: If you have an electric vehicle, you likely have access to an indoor charging station at home. Parking and charging it indoors will decrease the time needed to fully charge the battery, compared to doing so in frigid outdoor temperatures.

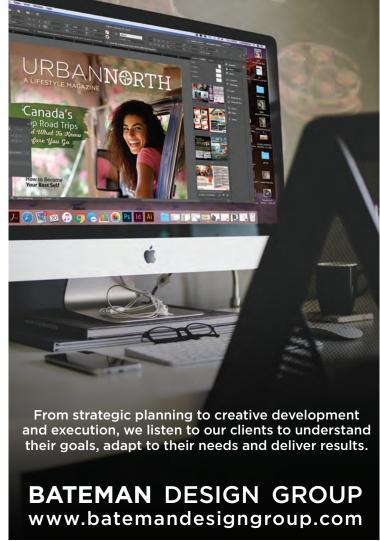




and be sure to have booster cables in your trunk and know how

to use them.

- 3. Inspect your snow tires. No matter what anyone tells you, all-season tires are not as good as winter ones during the coldest months of the year. If you're not currently using them, upgrade to winter tires and if you are, check them well before your installation appointment so that you have more time to shop for sales if they need replacing.
- 4. Create an emergency kit. Emergencies don't only happen to other people. Create an emergency kit for your car in case you get stranded by bad weather. Pack blankets, energy bars, a hat, gloves and a flashlight to keep you safe until help arrives. Make sure to have something that lets you charge your mobile phone so you can call for assistance.
- 5. Rustproofing. Researchers at the University of Windsor studied hundreds of cars and found that untreated vehicles had 6.8 times more visible corrosion on body panels than cars that benefitted from Krown Rust Control treatments. Underbody parts had 3.6 times more corrosion than treated cars. Winter is the time your car is most likely to be bombarded with salt and road-de-icing chemicals which can greatly accelerate corrosion. Protecting your vehicle against rust will help your vehicle to last longer, look better and will even make it safer to drive by protecting important components from rusting.



### **EMPOWERING WOMEN** through active wear!

Asskicker Activewear. The name stands out, just like the badass women who rock this brand. Julie Bateman of Barrie, Ontario developed this line of apparel for women with the intent of bringing comfort, function and empowering messages for all body types.

for her body type was difficult. She's tall at 5'11" and has a thicker frame than most apparel brands accommodated.

properly but was comfortable, functional and inspired design background to design a few tank tops for herself, the mockups she posted on Facebook were shared and the orders started to roll in.

derby community in South Simcoe. Her derby name can all achieve their goals. was Annie Asskicker, so the name Asskicker Ink.

Asskicker Activewear evolved organically when Julie was a natural fit and later evloved to what it is today. was frustrated by the fact that finding gym clothes Julie quickly built a website, then the line was officially launched and has been growing rapidly ever since!

#### STRONG WOMEN LIFT EACH OTHER UP

She wanted clothing that not only fit her body. Strong women lift each other up is one of the most popular sayings featured on their shirts as well as her to go to the gym. Using skills from her graphic one of the company's core values. Asskicker clothing is socially and eco-friendly, sourced from local suppliers and female entrepreneurs whenever possible. The founder also believes in collaboration Julie had been an active participant in the roller over competition—when women work together, they

Models in all promotional photo shoots have been







'real women' instead of trained models to show how the clothes fit different body types. In fact, all of the models in their first photo shoot were local women who were also small business owners.

#### **DETAILS MATTER**

Being the 'target demographic' as well as the founder, Julie continues to test each style during different types of sports or activities for fit, feel and performance. She is focused on functional aspects like opaque fabrics that aren't see through when squatting and pockets in their performance leggings that are large enough to hold your smart phone or keys when you're running, and a comfortable high waist band that stays in place when you move.

Julie's passion for an active and healthy lifestyle comes through in every piece she has designed. Whether you are purchasing her Flowy Racerback Tank Tops or her Pocket Compression Leggings, you will feel the difference in quality and performance. But most importantly you will be wearing a local brand that was created by a passionate woman who is eager to spread her message to all women; Work hard. Play hard. Kick ass.

Learn more or order online at asskickeractivewear.com





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# SAFER WINTER DRIVING

(Family Features) The winter season is typically one of the busiest times of the year for travelers. While millions prepare to hit the road to visit family and see sights they may never have seen before, there's one essential travel tip that cannot be overlooked: the proper tires.

Winter tires are an essential safety feature for drivers colder temperatures to maintain contact with the and deliver as much as a 25-50 percent increase in road. In addition, winter tires feature aggressive traction over all-season tires, which could be the groove patterns for more confident grip on ice, margin you need to brake in time to avoid trouble.

of the tire surface allows the tires to stay pliable in lines from the experts at Discount Tire:

slush and snow.

Winter tire tread design uses thousands of extra Learn the best time to install your winter tires and traction edges for added grip, and the softer rubber how to keep them in safe condition with these guidecan see your breath, you should think about winter tires for all four wheels, even if your area isn't often affected by ice or snow. When the temperature drops to 7° C and below, all-season tires can start to lose traction and grip. Keep tabs on pressure. Check your tire

Plan ahead. A good rule of thumb: if you

pressure at least once a month. For every 10-degree drop in temperature, your tires lose one pound of pressure (PSI). Use a tire pressure gauge to get the proper reading or stop by a tire store, such as your local tire shop, for an air check.

Check your tread with the quarter test. Tread depth determines a vehicle's safe stopping distance. To check your tread depth, stick a quarter upside-down in a tread groove. It's time to replace your tires if the caribou's head is visible.

Know the limitations of all-wheel drive. Drivers often mistake all-wheel drive as sufficient for driving in sleet or snow. In reality, all-wheel drive only helps you start from a stop. It doesn't function in the stopping or steering of a vehicle.

Designate a winter set of wheels, too. Having a set of wheels specifically for your set of winter tires can save you money in the long run. A second set of wheels eliminates the cost of changeover and spares nicer wheels from the wear and tear of ice. slush, snow and salt.

Extend your winter tires' use. Rotate your tires at least every 9,500 kilometres, or earlier if irregular or uneven wear develops. Change out your winter tires around tax season. This can help avoid wearing out the rubber in hot months and increase the tires' lifespan.

As you prepare for winter travel season, visit discounttire.com to find a tire store near you, or search for winter tires specific to your vehicle's make and model.



www.midlandprinters.ca donna@midlandprinters.ca

### Take a micro trip with those last vacation days

(NC) Research shows that taking a holiday offers many health benefits, including less stress, a healthier heart, better mental health and improved relationships. So, use those last vacation days or simply book a weekend away. Here are some tips on how to book the perfect micro trip:

HIT THE ROAD. Make the most of every minute of your short break by avoiding the airport and picking a spot you can drive to in a few hours. Road trips have great scenery during the colder months enjoy the fall foliage earlier or the beautiful first dusting of snow later in the year

PLAN AHEAD. You can extend feeling good about your vacation by taking some time to plan your activities and get excited about your trip. Plus, if you book dining

reservations and attraction tickets in advance, you'll be able to spend the limited time you have off enjoying rather than preparing and organizing the experience.

CHOOSE A THEME. A shorter stay is not the time to try to do it all, so focus on a single event or experience and make the most of it. Want culture and nightlife? Choose an urban getaway to Toronto. Montreal or Vancouver. Is nature more your thing? Check out a local national park or the

breathtaking ocean views and outdoor landscapes in Atlantic Canada.

LOOK FOR SPECIAL DEALS. Keep an eye out for dedicated promos and deals for microcationers and weekend vacations like special packages for short getaways. For example, Marriott Bonvoy is offering discounts on weekend stays when you book direct.

Find more information at hotel-deals.marriott.com/ canada-destination.



SAVE THE DATE:

### LOCAL **EVENTS**

#### **FIRST LIGHT**

Date:: Nov. 21 - 23, Nov. 28 - 30, Dec. 5-7, 2019 Time: 5:50 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Location: Martyr's Shrine, Midland

#### COLDWATER LEGION 8 BALL TOURNAMENT

Date: November 23, 2019 Time: 12 PM Location: Coldwater Legion

#### RED SCARF GALA

Date: November 29, 2019 Time: Contact the Gilbert Centre for details Location: Barrie Country Club

#### 2019 FESTIVAL **OF LIGHTS**

Date: December 6, 2019 Time: 4:30 - 5PM (Tree Lighting), 7 PM Activities (13 Burke St. Penetanguishene) Location: Penetanguishene Town Dock

#### CANADIAN ICE FISHING EXPO

Date: December 14-15, 2019 Time: Opens at 9:00 AM Location: Georgian College, Barrie

#### **HOPE STRONG GALA**

Date: December 14, 2019 Time: 5:00 PM Location: Wasaga Beach RexPlex -1724 Mosley St., Wasaga Beach

#### CHANTAL KREVIAZUK: CHRISTMAS IS A WAY OF LIFE, MY DEAR

Date: December 19, 2019 Time: 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m Location: Midland Cultural Centre, Midland

#### **NEW YEAR'S EVE** AT THE MCC

Date: December 31, 2019 Location: Midland Cultural Centre. Midland

#### BARRIE DOWNTOWN COUNTDOWN

Date: December 31, 2019 Time: 7 PM Location: Barrie City Hall





Must say I've just start using products from them and the service that has come with it has just been amazing...the people that work there are very knowledgeable and friendly; they are always greating you with a smile. When coming to our home it has been a white glove service as they are so clean and friendly, they are willing to walk you through all steps and teach you how you run your new products or even tips for the old ones. - Jesee



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